THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The pilots graduates from the flying clubs in India are trained as per the syllabus & standards prescribed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). DGCA has not received any such information regarding failure in flying test from private airlines.

(b) Flying training across India is imparted on Cessna 152 and Cessna 172 aircraft for single engine training. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) is also having multiengine King Air C-90 aircraft for advanced training. DGCA has alloted 12 simulators to various flying institutes across the country.

(c) The present rules effectively address the requirement for monitoring the activities of the flying training institutes. DGCA carries out safety oversight and surveillance inspection of these flying institutes annually, for issue or renewal of permission.

Working of Air India office at Delhi

3191. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the passengers travelling by Air India in the City Office of Air India in Connaught Place, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a passenger has to wait for hours in the Air India Office even to reconfirm his booking;

(c) whether he is aware that in the Air India office only 4-5 counters work at a time in Delhi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) what are the steps which will be taken in this regard;and

(f) the average number of passengers travelling daily by Air India from Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Air India has a modern fully computerised booking office in Delhi. Passengers visiting the booking office for travel related services are required to take token numbers and are serviced by turn. There are sufficient numbers of staff and around 17 counters in Air India Delhi office to service the passengers. Besides, a

toll free number working round-the-clock has been introduced for most of the travel related requirements. Reconfirmation can also be done through Air India Website.

(f) The average number of passengers travelling daily by Air India from IGI Airport Terminal-2 is approximately 1500.

Expansion of air service from Bhopal

3192. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on some proposals for commencing air services on some new routes;

(b) whether Government would consider air service from Bhopal to Kolkata in view of increasing demand for the same; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services, taking into account the need for air transport services, of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places, including new routes, depending upon the traffic demand, commercial viability and subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines does not have any plans to introduce direct air services between Bhopal and Kolkata at present.

Construction of airport at Gulbarga

3193. SHRI K. B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to construct airport at Gulbarga District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many acres of land is required for this project;

(c) what is the total estimated cost of the project;

(d) how much amount has been provided in the budget for the current year 2006-07;